

## **The Snake That Poisons Everybody**

It  
topples  
governments,  
wrecks  
marriages,  
ruins  
careers,  
busts  
reputations,  
causes  
heartaches,  
nightmares,  
indigestion,  
spawns suspicion,  
generates  
grief,  
dispatches  
innocent  
people  
to cry in their  
pillows.  
Even its name  
Hisses.  
It's called  
gossip.  
Office gossip,  
Shop gossip.  
Party gossip.  
It makes  
headlines  
and headaches.  
Before  
you repeat  
a story,  
ask yourself:  
Is it true?  
Is it fair?  
Is it necessary?  
If not,  
Shut up.